

Watergate

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6 p.m. news

.... The New York Times reported today that four of the five men arrested last June in the Watergate case have been paid regularly since their arrest. One of the defendants, Frank Sturgis, acknowledged to the Times that he was being paid, but the Times attributes these payments only to "persons close to the case." Times reporter Seymour Hersh said his information was gathered in a series of interviews with federal investigators, political figures and defense lawyers familiar with the Watergate case. Mr. Hersh cites several points as having been made by more than one of those interviewed. Firstly, the Times sources have said, high officials of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President have acknowledged privately that they are unable to account for \$900,000 in cash raised for President Nixon's 1972 campaign. This is far more than the \$250,000 mentioned in the trial of the defendants as the cost of their activities.

Secondly, according to the sources, a Nixon supporter, working in the Democratic headquarters, taped open the latches on the doors leading to the basement of the Watergate offices, allowing the five men to enter.

Thirdly, one member of the group, Eugenio Martinez, was an active ~~member~~ employe of the Central Intelligence Agency at time of the break-in, and kept a diary. He was dropped from the CIA's payroll after his arrest.

The Times story says that federal investigators indicated that any traceable connection between the defendants and the re-election committee have been severed. They said that any funds "have long since passed into the control of those unknown men who are now paying the Watergate group." The Times said much of its information was gathered after a freelance writer, who had connections with anti-Castro Cubans in Miami, began circulating an outline of a book on what he described as Mr. Sturgis' experiences. According to the Times, the book outline includes the allegation that the former attorney general, John Mitchell, had been kept informed of the activities of the Watergate defendants...